

County Allocation Funding Restrictions

County allocation funding is intended to supplement, not supplant, the State's current OERU funding received by county agencies, schools, and community-based organizations.

The funds provided to counties through the county allocation program are total funds expenditures, consisting of State General Funds matched with Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XXI (SCHIP – Healthy Families) federal financial participation (FFP). Therefore, this county allocation funding may not be used by counties to match federal funds in other programs, such as Medi-Cal Administrative Activities (MAA) to Local Governmental Agencies (LGAs) and the Local Educational Consortia (LECs).

Furthermore, any specific activities described in the county's work plan, whether performed by the county or the collaborative partners, which are funded through the county's allocation budget, may not be reimbursed through another State OERU funding source, such as:

- Application assistance reimbursement payments to Enrollment Entities (EE) for successful enrollment in Healthy Families (HF) and Medi-Cal.
- MAA to LGAs and LECs, as specified in the LGA MAA Claiming Plans or LGA/LEC MAA Operational Plans.

To prevent duplicate claiming of State or federal funds for the same OERU activity, CDHS provides the following guidelines:

Collaborative Partners that are Enrollment Entities:

Collaborative partners who are also EEs are encouraged to participate in outreach, enrollment, retention, and/or utilization activities. However, if a county proposal indicates that an EE receives county allocation funds for application assistance activities, then it must not claim reimbursement payments for assisting in Medi-Cal or HF application and the State will block EE reimbursement payments during the grant period.

On the other hand, if the EE is funded by the county allocation program to conduct only outreach, retention and utilization activities, and is not funded to specifically provide application assistance, then the EE may assist families in applying for Medi-Cal and HF and continue to request application assistance reimbursement payments. For example:

- *ABC* community based organization, an EE, is a member of the county coalition. *ABC* has a sub-contract with the county to conduct outreach activities in the community. *ABC* is listed in the county allocation budget and receives OERU allocation funds for outreach activities.

At the community health fair, *ABC* staff members perform outreach to targeted families and refer families who are interested in applying for Medi-Cal and/or HF. Since the EE is not specifically funded for application assistance activities as part

of the county allocation grants, *ABC* is eligible to receive the application assistance reimbursement fees for successful Healthy Families and or Medi-Cal application in addition to payments from the county outreach allocation.

- The county coalition includes an EE that has a contract with the county to specifically perform application assistance activities and receives funds from the county allocation specifically for that purpose. This EE will only receive the county allocation money, they may not request reimbursement for any application assistance activities and the State will block EE reimbursements for the grant period.

The CDHS will be tracking the production of all collaborative partners that are EEs including those eligible for EE reimbursement and those whose EE reimbursement payments are blocked. In order to evaluate the full impact of the county allocation grant funds it is necessary for the county proposal to identify all participating EE's in the County Allocation Enrollment Entity Spreadsheet (Attachment 1 and 1A) including differentiating those EEs that are specifically funded for application assistance activities whose reimbursement payments will be blocked and those EE's receiving county allocation funds for other outreach, retention and utilization activities that will continue to receive reimbursement payments for application assistance activities.

When will application reimbursement payments to EEs be blocked?

If collaborative partners include EEs, county plans must include the County Allocation Enrollment Entity Spreadsheet (Attachment 1 and 1A). All data elements on the spreadsheet must be filled out completely. The activity codes entered in to the spreadsheet will allow the State to know which EE activities the county allocation will fund. If the EE is receiving county allocation funds for application assistance, the application assistance reimbursement payments may not be claimed by the EE; therefore, the State will block payment to the EE.

Will the blocking of payments effect an EE's everyday operations?

Yes. Once an EE's payment is blocked, the EE will not be paid for any application assistance, including initial Healthy Families/Medi-Cal applications and Healthy Families Annual Eligibility Reviews. Payments will be blocked for the duration of time that the EE receives funding from the county's allocation program. Once the EE is not receiving the county allocation funding, the EE may again receive application assistance reimbursement payments by making a written request to the HFP EE/CAA Services Unit.

Collaborative partners that are Claiming Units under MAA:

Collaborative partners who have claiming units under MAA are encouraged to participate in outreach, enrollment, retention and/or utilization activities. However, if the claiming unit for MAA and under the county allocations is the same unit, then they must not claim under MAA.

On the other hand, if the organization uses the county allocation funds to conduct outreach, enrollment, retention, and/or utilization activities through a different claiming unit, then they may claim MAA reimbursement and receive county allocation funding.

Examples:

- County X has two claiming units under MAA. They spend 100 percent of their time conducting approved activities. The funds received through the county allocation are used to form a third claiming unit. Although the scope of work will be the same or similar, the organization may receive both sources of funding: MAA reimbursement for the original two claiming units and county allocation funds for the newly formed claiming unit.
- County Z has a claiming unit under MAA. The claiming unit only performs MAA activities 25 percent of the time and completes other work the remainder of the time. This claiming unit may use county allocation funds to perform additional outreach, enrollment, retention, and/or utilization activities for the other 75 percent of time.
- County A has one claiming unit under MAA. The claiming unit specified for the county allocation is the one designated for MAA. This claiming unit may not receive both sources of funding.

When will MAA funding be blocked?

The request for funding must list all collaborative partners and what funding is currently received for OERU activities. If the county or a partner receives funding under MAA, the county must provide the State with copies of the current signed contract with CDHS, including the approved claiming plan (for LGAs) or operational plan (for LECs). The copies of the plan must include the positions that are tied to the claiming unit performing MAA.

The county must submit proof of a new unit, including the positions that are tied to the claiming unit performing activities under the county allocation funding.